

## Ward 6 Staff



Steve Kozachik  
Council Member



Ann Charles



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# Ward 6 – Newsletter

APRIL 8, 2011

## A Message from Steve

There were plenty of important issues we discussed and acted upon at Council last Tuesday. As Fitz would say, now onto the news...

The Pima Association of Governments is a group of local cities and governmental jurisdictions who work together on several issues. One of those is the management of the RTA road projects. We were asked to approve action by the PAG on a couple of areas, one of which was giving our approval for a bond sale to move Phase II voter approved road projects forward on schedule. Readers of this newsletter know that I have been, and continue to be concerned with the falling RTA revenues and apparent cost issues related to road projects. At the council meeting I raised similar concerns once again and only voted in favor moving the bond package forward on the basis that without doing so would result in the RTA being unable to move forward with the work on schedule, as was the commitment made to the voters when the RTA package was approved. I will continue to bird-dog the costs and revenues associated with this work, and yet to have voted in opposition to the proposed bonding would have run counter to the expressed will of the people when they adopted this package of road work. It remains my belief that the RTA and Board of Supervisors should engage a public hearing to allow the voters to weigh-in on the timing and costs of the projects, but the City Council has no authority to compel such a meeting.

Pension costs paid by cities and towns across the nation have been escalating to the point where they are posing a significant financial burden on General Funds for numerous jurisdictions. Tucson is in that boat. In an effort to address that reality, the Pension Board of Trustees has presented to the M&C some proposed changes in pension benefits that would apply to new hires beginning in July of this year. Current retirees and current employees would not be affected at all by what is being proposed. The package includes items such as removing accrued vacation and sick leave from final salary calculations, smoothing out to 5 years the salary on which final salary is calculated, some changes in eligibility ages and "rule of 80" options, and more. The item that gets the system the most bang for the buck is moving the "benefit factor" from 2.25% to 1.75%" (this is the number multiplied against final salary figures to arrive at monthly pension benefits.) The National Average multiplier used is 2%, so the proposal would place Tucson a bit below than average.





### Important Phone Numbers

Tucson Police  
Department

911 or 791-4444  
nonemergency

Mayor & Council  
Comment Line

791-4700

Neighborhood  
Resources

791-4605

Park Wise

791-5071

Water Issues

791-3242

Pima County Animal  
Control

243-5900

Street Maintenance  
791-3154

Planning and  
Development  
Services 791-5550

Southwest Gas

889-1888

Gas Emergency/  
Gas Leaks

889-1888

West Nile Virus

Hotline

243-7999

Environment  
Service

791-3171

Graffiti Removal

792-2489

AZ Game & Fish

628-5376

## Continued: A Message From Steve

Right now our pension liabilities outstrip our pension assets by 29%. Lots of numbers, but the point is that we will need to find ways to change what we pay out in pensions, but we will need to find a balance so that we are not making the City of Tucson uncompetitive in terms of our ability to attract quality workers. We should be voting on a final menu of changes in the next few weeks.

The Council voted to adopt an all mail-in voting system. Currently voters have the option of going to any of the approximately 12 voting places per ward on Election Day, or mailing in a ballot. The newly passed ordinance reduces the on-site polling places to one per ward, and has the City mailing out ballots to all registered voters in the City. I made two substitute motions. The first substitute was to maintain the current hybrid system, but to reduce the number of Election Day polling places to no fewer than 5 per ward. I felt that was a reasonable compromise that recognizes the difficulty in staffing and finding ADA compliant polling sites. The motion failed for lack of a 2nd. Next, I moved to place the change on the November ballot to allow the voters to decide. The motion received a 2nd, but failed 5-2. I believe there are still some wrinkles to work out related to how we will control primary election participation, scrubbing inactive voters from the roles, and more. But, the rule passed, so register and keep an eye out for your ballot to come in the mail.

The Jefferson Park neighborhood has become quite the topic of conversation around town these past few weeks. I brought an agenda item to M&C this week for the purpose of trying to get some clarity from staff on how the recent "mini-dorm determination" was to be interpreted. I am including a link to that determination so you can read it for yourself. My concerns should not be mischaracterized, as is being done by some, to be anything more than what they are; simply, have staff make sense of the ruling so the residents of the neighborhood, developers and renters know the rules of the game by which we're now playing. You read the determination for yourself and see if it's clear which of the criteria constitute the factors necessary to cause one to cross from a compliant living arrangement to one that is non-compliant. Is it all or some of the factors listed? Is one the tipping point factor, or must they all exist together for a living arrangement to be disallowed? Is it lease terms, or relationships among the renters? Those were the sorts of questions I was asking, and regrettably we came away from the study session with as much uncertainty as we had entering.

I understand that the Board of Adjustments will rule on whether the City Zoning Administrator properly applied the language of the Land Use Code in drawing the conclusions found in the determination. I get that. What is not clear is the impact, reach, enforcement means and application of the terms found in that report for other properties scattered throughout the valley that have some, or all of the same set of facts found to be non-compliant with R1 or R2 zoning, and what will be done with the properties found in the determination to be out of compliance right now. The process is in play - ultimately this will more than likely be decided in court.

An item that probably slipped past the notice of most people was our pulling from con-



### Important Phone Numbers

Senator John  
McCain (R)  
520-670-6334

Senator Jon Kyl (R)  
520-575-8633

Congresswoman  
Gabrielle Giffords  
(D)  
(8<sup>th</sup> District)  
520-881-3588

Congressman  
Raul Grijalva (D)  
(7<sup>th</sup> District)  
520-622-6788

Governor Janice  
Brewer (R)  
Governor of Arizona  
602-542-4331  
Toll free:  
1-800-253-0883

State Legislators  
Toll Free  
Telephone:  
1-800-352-8404  
Internet:  
[www.azleg.gov](http://www.azleg.gov)

Mayor Bob Walkup  
791-4201

City Infoguide  
[http://  
cms3.tucsonaz.gov/  
infoguide](http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/infoguide)

sent agenda a M&C memorial that was to be sent to the EPA recommending a Lo Nox scrubbing solution to be used at the Navajo Generating Station. This can get in the weeds pretty quickly, but the short message is that we were given a briefing several weeks ago by CAP Director David Modeer, the gist of which was that we needed to recommend to the EPA a particular system for reducing pollutants to be installed at the NGS. The system recommended by Modeer is less effective in terms of reducing air emissions, and also less costly than the alternative we were given to consider.

After having received some emails from a variety of sources, I called and spoke with representatives of the Audubon Society and Congresswoman Gabrielle Gifford's staff who specializes in these environmental and energy issues in D.C. to get their input. There was consensus that there is no legitimate reason for the Tucson City Council to get out ahead of the EPA on making this decision, and that our best option is to allow that agency to make a determination later this summer. I respect that counsel and believe we made the right decision in waiting for more facts to be presented before weighing in.

Finally, a recent Op. Ed. I wrote for Inside Tucson Business has caused some discontent among some of our State legislators, and some recent appointees to the Rio Nuevo Board. In brief, I have been very open about my disagreement with much of the legislation coming out of Phoenix. One does not balance his budget by cost shifting to other jurisdictions, nor does one balance his budget by making draconian cuts to education. I would welcome a meeting with other elected officials from the State, County and other local jurisdictions to sit and discuss how we can work together to solve our common economic challenges in ways that do not simply pass the problem onto others. I have begun the process of trying to arrange such a meeting.

With respect to Rio Nuevo, some have misconstrued my interest in developing a working relationship with the new Board to mean that I do not acknowledge the gross mismanagement of funds that has occurred in the past. To the contrary, I have been rather blunt in pointing out that mismanagement, and openly welcome any further investigations from the State Attorney General or any other entity if there are rocks yet to be overturned. But while that process is still being worked through, I would hope the City and the Rio Board can work together in the areas in which we agree (updating the TCC, for example) for the greater good of the community.

\*Goodman Development Determination in Jefferson Park link:

<http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/sites/default/files/ward6/4-7-11%20final%20determination.pdf>

Sincerely,

Steve Kozachik  
Council Member, Ward 6  
[www.tucsonaz.gov/ward6](http://www.tucsonaz.gov/ward6)

## Household Hazardous Waste Collection

### Saturday April 16, 2011, 8:00 AM to Noon

On Saturday April 16 from 8:00 AM to Noon, the Blenman Elm and Central Tucson Neighborhoods **Household Hazardous Waste Collection** will be in **the North Parking Lot of Himmel Park**, First Street east of Tucson Blvd. This is your opportunity to get rid of this stuff that should **not** go to the landfill or down the drain. Here is what to bring:

<b>Automotive Fluids</b>	<b>Fluorescent Lamps</b>	<b>Engine Oil Filters</b>
<b>Auto Batteries</b>	<b>Paint Products</b>	<b>Auto Batteries</b>
<b>Solvents</b>	<b>Rechargeable Batteries</b>	<b>Hobby chemicals</b>
<b>Small Button Batteries</b>	<b>Lawn &amp; Garden Products</b>	<b>Pool Chemicals</b>
<b>Drain Openers</b>	<b>Cleaning Products</b>	<b>Drain Openers</b>
<b>Propane Cylinders</b>	<b>Cooking Oil</b>	<b>Computer Equipment</b>
<b>Printer Cartridges</b>	<b>Items labeled: Acid, Flammable, Caustic, Poison, Caution, Toxic, Danger or Warning</b>	
	<b>Mercury Containing Products</b>	

**RISE Equipment Recycling Center** will be participating in the collection. They will be accepting electronics (computers, computer monitors, peripherals, VCR's, DVD players, routers, modems, small appliances, etc.) at no charge, and they will also be accepting televisions for \$10 each. They do not accept large appliances.

Please bring your stuff **ONLY** during the hours of operation: 8:00 AM to Noon on Saturday April 16. All wastes should be properly identified and labeled. Containers should not leak. Please note, we **cannot** handle business or commercial wastes, commercial gas cylinders, explosives or ammunition, infectious or radioactive wastes.

**We cannot take prescription drugs, other medications or tablets.** See Fact Sheet, Medications Disposal: [www.tucsonaz.gov/tcb/docs/medication-disposal.pdf](http://www.tucsonaz.gov/tcb/docs/medication-disposal.pdf) If you have questions about what materials are hazardous wastes, please call the City of Tucson Household Hazardous Waste Program at 888-6947 or check the website at [www.tucsonaz.gov/hhw](http://www.tucsonaz.gov/hhw)

We depend on volunteers to help with the collection. If you would like to volunteer for this activity either the full four hours, or some part, please call Alice Roe 795-7310.

### Plan Tucson

The City of Tucson is preparing a new General Plan, called Plan Tucson. When completed, Plan Tucson will replace the City's existing General Plan. General plans, which are required by state law to be readopted or ratified every 10 years, provide policies to guide decision making in the many areas important to a well functioning city, from jobs, housing, and education to land use, transportation, and natural resources. Six General Plan introductory meetings are being held in April. For more information, visit the Plan Tucson website at [www.tucsonaz.gov/plantucson](http://www.tucsonaz.gov/plantucson) or attend the meeting in Ward 6.

Thursday, April 14, 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.  
 Randolph Golf Clubhouse/Copper Room  
 200 S. Alvernon Way

## 3rd Annual Pennington Street Block Party

**City High School** is organizing the event to bring together the Tucson community and to highlight the amazing projects and talents of our youth. The event is a part of Global Youth Service Days. There will be organizations from all over our city, 2 stages, a carnival for children, craft and food vendors. The event will be **Saturday, April 9th from 3-7pm**. This event will be joining **2nd Saturdays** which will continue that evening. For additional information:

<http://cityhighschool.org/community/blockparty/>

**2nd Saturdays** continues from 5 to 10 pm. along Congress Street. For more information:

<http://www.2ndsaturdaysdowntown.com/>

## 17th Annual Tucson Earth Day Festival

Saturday, April 16, 2011 - Reid Park



Click here to see more information: <http://www.tucsonearthday.org/>

## New Beginnings 8th Annual Awards Luncheon

**Mark your calendar!** This year's Awards Luncheon will be held at Loews Ventana Canyon in the Grand Ballroom on

**APRIL 28, 2011**

For additional information click on the link

[http://www.nbwctucson.org/fundraising/awards\\_luncheon.aspx](http://www.nbwctucson.org/fundraising/awards_luncheon.aspx)



The date for National Night Out has been moved to the 1st Tuesday in October so that it coordinates with other jurisdictions around the State, and avoids some of the weather related challenges that have been previously experienced.

## Schorr Family Award event features community discussion on mental health needs and resources

The forum, "A Delicate Balance: Creating a better post-January 8 system to protect the public and help persons with serious mental illness," will be held from 1:45 to 5 p.m. April 27 at the UA's Centennial Hall, 1020 E. University Blvd. in Tucson. There is no charge for the event. Both nationally known and local experts will speak, followed by an hour-long question-and-answer session with the audience. Speakers and panelists include those who have family members with a mental illness.

Thomas R. Insel, M.D., director of the National Institute of Mental Health, will be honored and will deliver the keynote address. Dr. Insel will be the 13<sup>th</sup> recipient of the Schorr Family Award. Ron Barber, district director for U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, also is scheduled to speak. Giffords and Barber both were seriously injured in the Jan. 8 attack. For more information click on the link: <http://w3.cpsa-rbha.org/static/index.cfm?contentID=3067>